

U.S. National Stage of  
PCT/FI2003/000880  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

PATENT

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following paragraph at the beginning of the specification.

This application is a 371 of international application PCT/FI2003/000880, which claims priority based on Finnish patent application No. 20022050 filed November 18, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3, please insert the following heading:

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

Before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 9, please insert the following heading:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 18, please insert the following heading:

**OBJECT OF THE INVENTION**

Before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 23, please

insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

More specifically, the refining method according to the invention is characterized by ~~what is stated in the characterizing part of claim 1~~ feeding the flow of mixture of a material that is groundfibers that are refined and steam forward at least in the first refining (3) stage by rotary energy of a rotor of the refiner so that no essential back-flow of the steam occurs, transferring the mass flowfiber and steam mixture exciting the first refiner totally into the second refiner without separating steam from the flow, and feeding the mixture through a flow path having a cross section that is constant or decreasing between at least the exit of the first refining (3) stage and infeed of the second refining stage.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The apparatus for implementing the method is characterized by what is stated in the characterizing part of the claim XX in that the cross section of the flow path between at least the exit of the first refining (3) stage and infeed of the second refining stage is constant or preferably decreasing.

Before the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 11, please insert the following heading:

#### ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 9, please insert the following headings and paragraph:

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Fig. 1 shows main parts of a fiber producing line. The first apparatus in the line is a silo 1, into which prefabricated wood chips are fed.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION